

# It's Only a Movie!

HORROR, SCI FI, DELINQUENTS,  
ROCK -- THE FILMS OF THE  
DAMNED!

Volume 1      Number 2      \$.65



**Does Someone You Love Have A Drinking Problem?**

INFO HERE: TEXAS CHAINSAW  
MASSACRE PARTY!

PSYCHOTRONIC FILM FEST REPORT!

CHICAGO TV GUIDE

NEW FILM/VIDEO REVIEWS!

STARBLAZERS!



NO MORE  
**Son of**  
**Svengoolie!**

Hope you get this by Saturday Jan.25,because thats the night The Son Of Sven says goodbye to Chicago.After 6½ years of consistent ratings channel 32,long embarrassed over the popularity of the character Rich Koz portrayed dropped the show giving Sven the late night heave ho.Sven will be showing highlights of his best routines during the film Supersonicman at 11:30...Channel 66 ,which may have the coolest film collection on television is presenting Monday thru Friday 90 minutes of fine Japanese animation with Captain Harlock, Starblazers and Thunderbirds 2086...They also have the Man From U.N.C.L.E on Saturday at 6pm...The L.A.Times of Sunday Jan.26 has the official version of the wild Psychotronic party for Michael Weldon here in Chicago!Who knows,it may go out over the wires after that!...Now if I can find where they sell them!...Del Close saw Troll,says that when the film is dubbed for the foreign market it could be a hit,but the rotten delivery of the bad writing is a drawback.The trolls are great,and folks like Sony Bono explode into landscapes of trolls.Worth seeing at least once...Michael Weldon hates Nightmare On Elm Street 2 but Eric Nihilist loves it...I saw Brazil and loved it.There is no way to see this film on a television.More dangerous than RAMBO it comments on a society run by unions and bureaucrats in the strongest pro individualist language since FOUNTAINHEAD.Theres bombings,wild non stop effects and only one drawback-the image of the winged man which,ok its classical but the rest of the film is so original that this sticks out, altho I didn't mind the footage of this figure on the ground...

COME AND MEET JOHN DUGAN

GRANDPA

IN

THE TEXAS CHAINSAW

MASSACRE

A SPECIAL 12th Anniversary Show

FIND OUT WHAT REALLY

HAPPENED BEHIND THE SCENES!

A Chicago Psychotronic Film Society

EXCLUSIVE!

Saturday Feb.15 Begins promptly at 7:30 pm!

also movie ads of films that NEVER PLAYED  
CHICAGO!

At the Club Berlin (Chicagos finest video bar-CHICAGO  
MAGAZINE) 954 West Belmont

MEMBERS FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP CARD!

Admission for others just \$2.00

HAPPY VALENTINES WEEKEND!



# PSYCHOTRONIC®

What a party! Three days of switchblades, the walking dead and cool trailers. The Altamont of Psychotronic films!

Michael Weldon arrived at our place Thursday night and luckily Pam was able to disarm him. This was to become the first chainsaw in our closet, earning Pam the title of "Chainsaw Check Girl". I was in a straight-jacket by this time and mumbling something about Hershell Lewis becoming head of an ideal one-world government. My tongue had a hardened surface of glue on it from licking press release envelopes, so Weldon felt right at home.

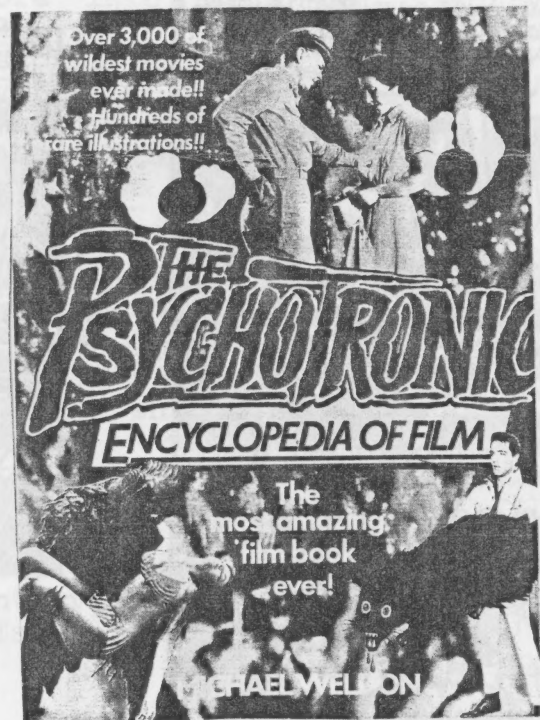
At this point the vault door opened and in walked co-founder of the Society, Del Close. For those how have not heard how the Psychotronic Film Society was formed, basically, I turned to Del one day and told him the idea. He said, "That's a good idea, Mike, why don't you do it?" The film fest plan began.

Del brought with him C. Thomas Howell, star of RED DAWN and the OUTSIDERS, and Jamie Gertz, who played Muffy on SQUARE PEGS (and now has three films coming out!). I quickly made them honorary members for their achievements in the Psychotronic field! Anyone who has seen SQUARE PEGS knows Muffy was the spoiled rich girl. I wasn't sure it was her! Talk about complete opposites. SQUARE PEGS was just one of many television shows that was much better than it had to be, so naturally, it didn't stay on. The DEVO episode alone has to go down in the books as a T.V. classic.

In my mind, (and lord, isn't that a scary thought), Tom Howell walked away with RED DAWN. Who can forget the shot of him transformed into a symbolic Afganistan warrior with scarf and rifle fighting off a Soviet helicopter? In the OUTSIDERS, he was great as Pony Boy, both films are on video. Did I mention that SQUARE PEGS is now on Channel 66 at 4PM Monday thru Friday?

Friday morning found us checking the press clippings. We made it into the READER, SUN-TIMES and TRIBUNE!

That night's films I had only heard of, never seen. DEMENTIA was my favorite. The crowd seemed pleasantly surprised at the intelligence of both films. "They" call it garbage, so be it. We know better. In an environment of free speech, the films were enjoyed by all.



THE BOOK THAT STARTED  
IT ALL!



Then came the party, and a confrontation with anti-free speech groups. There will probably be more confrontations later with such people. The material shakes up many people. So be it.

The party was packed, the joint was jumpin'. Meeting new members, talking about films -- it was wild! The publishers of PLAIN PLAID and HATER EX, oh, excuse me, PLAID and LETTER EX crashed the party (they did not attend the show), not knowing it was mine or what it was about. Boy were they shocked. It was so funny to see PLAID, a bunch of kids who dress like they were living in 1977 England with shaved heads, pins in the nose and no one cared! Let's face it, when humans are being sawed in half on the television to the beat of Meet the Flintstones in a room packed with Jetson furniture and the conversation in the room is about favorite fright films -- these kids are lost!



One of them spotted Ron Reagan on a painting by RICH TAYLOR and hit it, I grabbed him and tossed him out. That was fun! What isn't fun is what that says about Chicago's art scene right now. Oh yeah, they're for free speech if it's superficial like CLOTHES or pretty pictures, but if it has an IDEA to it, god forbid! The guy didn't even "get" that the painting is a satire. But doesn't it make sense? Isn't that why exploitation films are EVERYBODY's target? Be it RAMBO or DAY OF THE DEAD. This guy is a performance artist with SSPU (aptly named), an artist who knows nothing of arts traditions, rejects free expression in art, is no friend of our films, fellow psychos. So do us all a favor, members DO NOT INVITE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TROUBLE TOLERATING OTHERS' VIEWS. We show such a wide variety of material no one could possibly like all of it (except maybe me or Eric Nihilist -- we'll watch anything once), yet I like to think we all get along because we dig the insights and perspectives EVERYONE brings. You BETCHA! Conflict is boring.

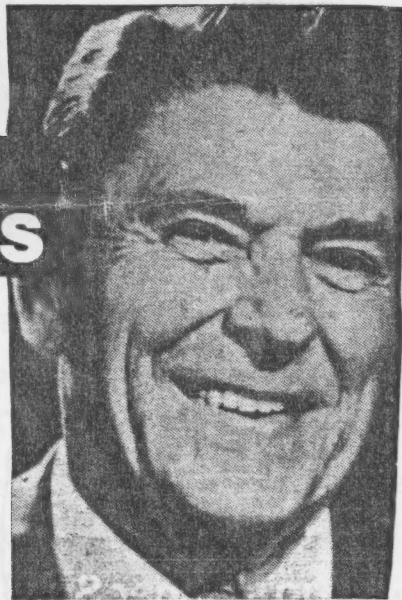


PSYCHOTRONIC MEMBER JAY LYNCH GIVES HIS VERSION OF THE PARTY IN PHOEBE

LETTER EX is a 2 page newsletter that purports to cover Chicago's poetry scene. Its calendar lists poetry readings but its articles are usually bitter diatribes aimed at people they don't like. I have never seen one article that used the language of poetry criticism. A review that merely regurgitates the obvious lines

of poems is no review. Yet this is the state of liberal arts today. They actually attacked me in print for associating with people older than myself, and this is just part of the problem. They NEVER review our kinds of films, they wouldn't know how! (See STARBLAZER review for one approach). If colleges don't start a campaign to convince alumni and older people to keep up with art technology by attending classes at a competitive rate with places like the discovery center, we are going to be stuck with SPOILED BRATS for artists! I challenged the editor of LETTER EX to a public IQ test/contest. I told her the loser would have to leave the state and not think here again! Date to be announced.

## REAGAN REMEMBERS



OH NO --DON'T HIT  
THE PAGE AHHHHH!

All of this took only a minute, the party rocked on until 5AM. Even the police, who were summoned by some neighbor outraged that they never go to parties that wild, turned and left once they saw Pam collecting chainsaws at the door. Two of the MURRAY brothers JOEL and BRIAN DOYLE came with BUD CORT (of HAROLD AND MAUDE fame). Brian and I talked about the death of Freud's influence on society and favorite beatnik horror films. He was formerly writing for SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (when it was good) and is now working on motion picture scripts. Joel is going to be in DATE NIGHT, among many other films. Mark his name down. He's also a member. So when are you going to do a Stuart Gordon horror picture, man! Call the agent. I didn't want to mention Joel's date, but, OK, maybe I exaggerated a TINY BIT when I invited her on a world cruise, sorry! Everybody talked about their favorite films and Del led

the survivors in a sun raising service, which worked! It made it.

On Saturday night my fav was SHE DEMONS. The crowd, I think, was more into THE MASK. Sorry to all who were turned away. Psychos should try to get to our events a half-hour early. Not only to get good seats, BUT TO TALK, 'cause when that stops, this club is over.

Sunday, everyone was surprised. The Bears won, (Del told me they were a football team), COCAINE FIENDS was the only complete print I've ever seen, WOW. WILD YOUTH, which no one had seen before, instantly hit classic status. Very good juvenile delinquent film.

Next issue, an in depth WELDON interview and all that's fit to dish.



# STARBLAZERS!

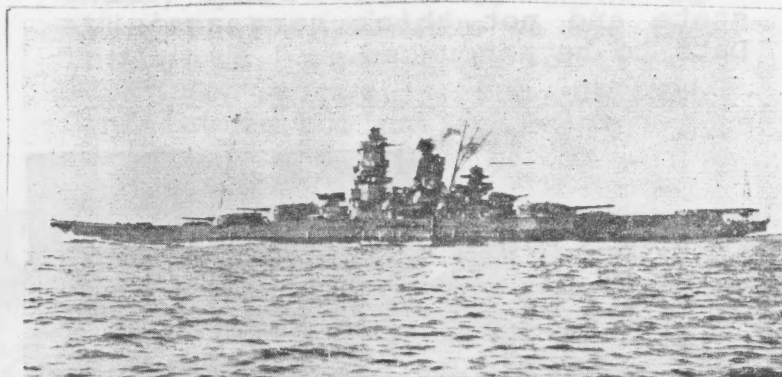
When Reija Matsumoto created Space Battleship Yamato for Japanese television in October of 1974, he took the cartoon concept of the Japanese Manga, comics read by the young, and elevated it to literature. He shook the Japanese animation industry by introducing character development, unheard of in cartoons, both in the U.S. and Japan. In Chicago the show is known as STARBLAZERS and is on Monday through Friday at 7:30 AM on Channel 66.

In the future, earth is under attack by Gamalons, space aliens, when a ship from World War II suddenly re-appears -- the Yamato, and is re-fitted as a space battleship. My research into the ship led me to another appreciation.

The Washington Treaty of 1922 and London Treaty of 1930 were to keep Japan's ship displacement, and thus its strength and speed, third in power. While legislation was being used to keep Japan from competing in the world market, it was also a message that Japan was feared as equal or better in ship construction. In 1934 with the virtual collapse of trade, plans were announced to build a ship that was faster than any then in the seas. Extra heavy gun placements, which were removable, kept the U.S. and U.K. from noticing the actual power and speed of the ships, although a book in 1935 appeared in Germany discussing the implications of the Yamato

line. The Germans understood these could out gun and maneuver the already united allies. A combined bomb and torpedo attack finally sank the flagship on April 7, 1945, with all on board going down with the ship. At the conclusion of the war, World War II history is carefully censored in Japan to appease those abroad.

Then comes the cartoon. Guess what? In STARBLAZERS, and the Yamato series in Japan (which encompasses theatrical releases and 10 years of television shows), everyone dies violently fighting the alien invader. Have the Japanese found the way to re-tell this admittedly heroic story of World War II? Watch and see!



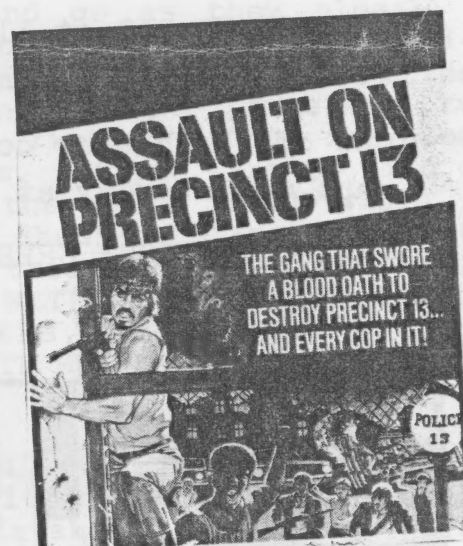
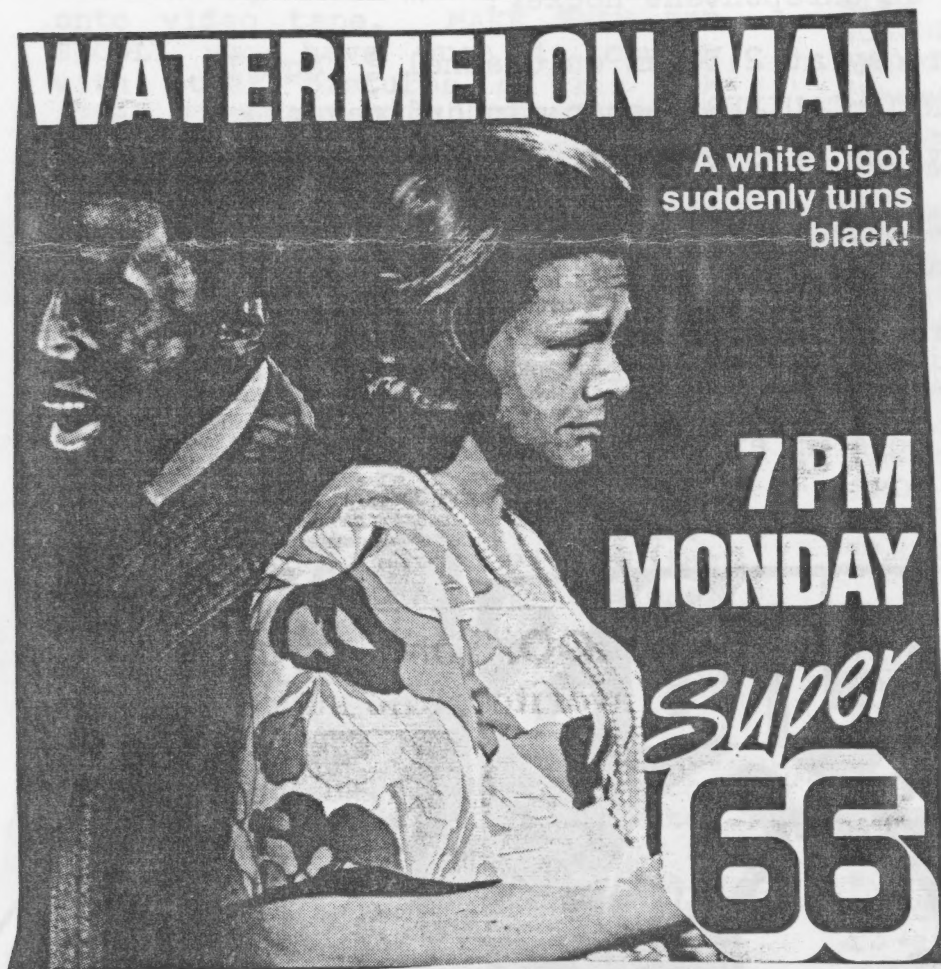
YAMATO December, 1941.

[J.W.M.]



Here it is, your official alternative TV GUIDE for Jan. 26-Feb 1  
Sunday Jan 26-DAY IT CAME TO EARTH-a 1977 Wink Roberts  
release about radiation bringing a corpse to life! Channel  
66 from 6-8 pm

Monday Jan. 27 at 7pm Godfrey Cambridge stars in WATERMELON  
MAN see ad



Tuesday Jan. 28 channel 9 at 7pm will present the much gossiped  
about AMERICAN SUCCESS COMPANY with Bianca Jagger (who ended  
her film career with her on and off screen battles during  
filming). The film was not released to theaters.

Also Tuesday at 8pm on 66 the classic ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13  
about a police station under attack by street gangs!

Wednesday the 29th at 3am you'd better set the video recorders  
for channel 9 for NIGHTMARE ALLEY produced by Georgie Jessel!  
about carny life sleazier than any film made in the 40's!

Thursday at 3am on 9 fans of girls in prison films should  
catch CAGED!!



Friday at 7pm on 66 SOMETHING EVIL, the film said to be the basis for Poltergeist will air.

That same Friday at 11:30 pm the Andromeda Strain, an excellent sci fi film with great Douglas Trumbull special effects!

Also Friday on channel 11 at 11:45 MARKED WOMAN with Bette Davis and Humphrey Bogart. Davis stunned audiences in 1937 with her portrayal of an unrepentant hooker!

If you're still awake Friday at 2:30 am on channel 2 Raquel Welch will star in HANNIE CAULDER, a star-studded revenge western recommended by the Psychotronic Womens Auxillary.

Saturday Feb. 1 at 11:30 am on 32 the classic DEAD MEN WALK with George Zucco in a dual role!

One of the better horror films of the forties, SON OF DRACULA pops up Saturday at 11:30 pm on 32.

LEGEND OF BOGGY CREEK pops up at midnight on 66 about BIGFOOT!

# SPIELBERG'S SOMETHING EVIL

Sandy Dennis  
Darren McGavin

Steven Spielberg's  
1972 shocker about  
a couple that buys  
a terrifyingly  
haunted  
old house!

7 PM FRIDAY

66

9:00 PM  
BORIS KARLOFF'S  
THRILLER

A ruthless  
millionaire  
masks his  
true  
identity!



10:00 PM  
ROD SERLING'S  
NIGHT GALLERY  
"WEIRD WEEK"

One night  
in a  
haunted  
house  
could be  
worth  
\$10,000!



60



# VIDEO

By Eric Nihilist

## MAKE THEM DIE SLOWLY

It's hard to believe that this infamous Italian hard-core gore, torture epic is being released onto video tape. MAKE THEM DIE SLOWLY may have much in common with other pictures of its ilk (TRAP THEM AND KILL THEM, JUNGLE HOLOCAUST, etc.) but none can compare with this baby's cannibal gut-munchings, mutilations, and torture. This film not only has castration, but they cauterize the wounds! If all this weren't enough to seal its deserved reputation, actual animal slaughter is thrown in for good measure. MAKE THEM DIE SLOWLY is one sick movie! What's even more amazing is that Thriller Video, thus far known only for releasing made-for-TV horror films, is doing the honors; not only for this one, but also for:

## BURIED ALIVE

BURIED ALIVE, directed by Joe (TRAP THEM AND KILL THEM) D'Amato, won the Gore Gazette's coveted Gore Film of 1984 award, and is packed with entrail ripping, brain munching, cleaver choppings and one acid bath body disposal. Both MAKE THEM DIE SLOWLY and BURIED ALIVE are required viewing for sleeze and exploitation fans.

## THEY CAME FROM WITHIN

It's about time! Directed by Canadian David Cronenberg (who is also responsible for THE BROOD, SCANNERS, VIDEODROME, and RABID--starring adult film star, Marilyn Chambers). THEY CAME FROM WITHIN

is the story of aphrodisiac parasites that nest (and pretty much come and go as they please) in the stomachs of a small group of people living in an apartment building. The parasites turn their victims into sex-hungry crazies. If you want to find out where the movie ALIEN stole its famous chest-bursting scene from, check this one out. THEY CAME FROM WITHIN was/is known as, SHIVVERS, FRISONS, and THE PARASITE MURDERS.

## THE RE-ANIMATOR

If you missed THE RE-ANIMATOR while it was in town you made a big mistake. THE RE-ANIMATOR, based on the H.P. Lovecraft story, is non-stop excessive gore from start to finish. The plot concerns the obsessed young scientist, Herbert West, who has invented a serum which will re-animate the dead. West's quest is his only goal and no matter how out of hand things



get, he just keeps bringing 'em back. The filmmakers are already working on a new H.P. Lovecraft story to bring to the big screen, tentatively titled FROM BEYOND. THE RE-ANIMATOR is being released onto tape by Vestron Video, a company we have much to be thankful for.



## FIEND WITHOUT A FACE

It's time to turn back the clock to 1958 and take a look at FIEND WITHOUT A FACE. I'm amazed that more people haven't seen this science-fiction classic. Invisible beings from another planet turn out to be brains with spinal cords attached to them; and what do these fiendish freaks from another galaxy want? They want -- more brains of course! They live on human brains! They attack without warning! They are hungry 95% of the time! They want to destroy the world as we know it! No one is safe! Can these monsters be stopped? You'll have to see FIEND WITHOUT A FACE to find out!

MICHAEL WELDON, author of the PSYCHOTRONIC ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FILM, in his review informs us that FIEND WITHOUT A FACE director, Arthur Crabtree, can also be thanked for HORRORS OF THE BLACK MUSEUM.

P.S. All of the above tapes are available at:

VIDEO PLUS  
1112 North State Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60610

*Flors*  
54 W Randolph  
Room 606EZ  
Chicago FI 60601



Tom Johnson  
819 W. Bradley  
Apt #3  
Chicago, FI 60613